



October 28, 2014

Norfolk Public Schools Families:

In an effort to keep you informed, the City of Norfolk, Norfolk Public Schools, the Norfolk Police Department and Norfolk Fire-Rescue have partnered to deliver this message to our community. Since late last week, together we have worked to ensure that Norview High School operates smoothly and safely despite the actions of a few students to disrupt operations by pulling fire alarms and fighting. We will not tolerate actions that create an unsafe environment. Unfortunately, we are investigating a significant number of cases in which students and others are using social media, text messages and word of mouth to spread rumors and false information throughout the City.

We are writing to you today for the following reasons:

1. To emphasize that the City of Norfolk, Norfolk Public Schools, the Police Department and Norfolk Fire-Rescue continue to work closely together to ensure that all of our schools remain safe, secure environments for teaching and learning;
2. To remind students and families of the serious, immediate consequences for fighting, falsely pulling fire alarms and otherwise causing disruption in schools. Since the two arrests at Norview on Friday, six more students have been charged, two in connection with the fighting and four in connection with the false alarms;
3. To remind students to report questionable activity to school officials and/or the anonymous NPS Anti-Bullying Safe Schools hotline, (757) 628-1171 or safeschools@npsk12.com; and
4. To ask parents' cooperation in monitoring children's social media and texting activities so that we can stop the spread of rumors and inaccurate, fear-inducing information.

Norfolk students who falsely pull fire alarms will face serious school disciplinary action, and are subject to being charged with Class 1 misdemeanors under city ordinances regarding maliciously activating fire alarms in public buildings (Sec. 17.1-25.1 and Sec. 29-7).

School administrators will also investigate and take appropriate disciplinary actions against any students who attempt to cause disruptions or worse by spreading false and inflammatory information verbally or via social media and text messages. Norfolk Police are providing added presence at Norfolk high schools this week, working with NPS security officers to ensure that we are proactive, along with swiftly enforcing necessary consequences.

In partnership with the Norfolk Police Department and Norfolk Fire-Rescue, Norview High School administrators are continuing to investigate all reports and concerns, and students and parents are asked to properly report information rather than resorting to social media or texting. Any necessary updates will be provided on the school's Web site. The City of Norfolk, Norfolk Public Schools, the Norfolk Police Department, and Norfolk Fire-Rescue appreciate the vast majority of students and families who support our efforts for safe, secure, positive learning environments for children. Norview High School is an excellent school with multiple national awards for academic achievement and student leadership. We will stand together as a community to ensure the safety and security of all students and staff.

Sincerely,

Samuel T. King
Superintendent

Marcus Jones
City Manager

Michael Goldsmith
Chief of Police

Jeffrey Wise
Fire Chief